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Sec. Baker seems to be having a little respite to do his work.

It is probable that Vermont will not have to contribute 100 per cent to the next draft either.

We know the Germans are still on the job because American hospitals in France are being bombed.

There are signs that the groundhog is thinking of coming out to make another bluff at weather prophecy.

To remain and work on a Vermont farm this summer is just as patriotic as to go to work in a government shipyard.

The women voters are going to make a great deal of difference in the local option vote in the cities and towns of Vermont next month.

The University of Vermont and State Agricultural college is showing that it is keeping up with the times by its decision to establish a school for instruction of Vermont farmers in the handling of tractor engines.

The purchase of thrift stamps by the public school children of Barre shows that the children are both patriotic and public-spirited. It is to be hoped that everyone of them may be the proud possessor of thrift stamps before the calendar year ends.

Another Holstein youngster has sold for a small fortune. Majestic Rag Apple, son of Rag Apple Korndyke 8th, went under the hammer at the Liverpool ring, Syracuse, N. Y., for \$35,000.—Brattleboro Reformer.

The Barre branch of the Red Cross should, therefore, begin to lengthen out its purse.

The United States is still waiting to see the beautiful daughter of the ex-czar of Russia who was reported to be on her way here to start a movement to seat her father on the throne again, or else go into the "movies." There are strong suspicions that the yarn had the earmarks of the press agent stuff of the latter.

Hurry up and bring along that coal before the threatened floods wash out the railroads. And then hurry it before the sun's heat warps the rails out of shape. And then hurry it before next winter's snowstorms begin to flatten out transportation again. Yes, keep hurrying it right along, for the railroads are always up against something or other.

It wasn't likely that any of the American contingent would make complaint to General Pershing during that commander's inspection of the front line trenches held by the Americans in France. So the complaint of the cook that he didn't get enough "green stuff" was all the more startling. Incidentally, it might be stated that the cook's complaint extends to all the people of the world about this time of the year; it is the off season for "green stuff" in the trenches or out.

President Wilson is good when using polished phrases and well-turned sentences; he is equally as good, or better, when using barbed and spiked sentences. When occasion demands, it might be even preferable for him to resort to the latter weapons rather than to mill away with the former. His direct statement to William L. Hutchison, president of the carpenter's brotherhood, were along the line of the spiked and barbed variety and they carried some weight in the matter of the labor disturbances in Atlantic coast shipyards.

Probably the world knows little of the bloodshed and other horrors now being perpetrated in various parts of Russia, as only now and then does the word come to the outside of such a bloody encounter as that at Kiev between the Bolsheviks and the Ukrainian troops with casualties estimated at about 11,000. Russia is going through that reign of terror which was prophesied by those acquainted with the internal conditions of that troubled land. Added to the bloodshed and other terrible features of revolution there probably is the horror of famine conditions in many parts of the once great empire.

The attention of the American people will now be directed to three distinct sectors of the front line in France, because American troops have been sent to those three sectors, namely, on the St. Mihiel salient, in the Champagne region, and "on one of the most famous battle fields in the world," as the newspaper censor puts it. The placing of American troops at these three places rather discounts the German report of 40,000 United States troops being in France, because it undoubtedly would take far more than that number of men to fill up the distinctively American sector near St. Mihiel and form the necessary reserve back of that front. When the Germans go on their raiding expeditions on the Champagne front and "on one of the most famous battlefields in the world" they may be fortunate enough to pick up some positive proof that the Amer-

ican expeditionary force is much more numerous than they have been pleased to believe it to be.

VERMONT'S PROUD POSITION.

"Vermont is not called upon for any more men in the first quota owing to the number of volunteers the state has sent forward."

The above are the words of the Associated Press, a news-gathering organization which sticks to the facts and allows no bias to enter into the articles sent out under its authority. In this instance, the words represent the official decision of the war department at Washington. We go into this explanation so that those who are not acquainted with the work of the Associated Press may rest assured that the statement does not come from a biased source; indeed, that it was prepared outside of Vermont and without any previous knowledge on the part of Vermont—may rest assured that it is the official decision of the war department. So much for the authenticity of the statement.

As to the facts back of the decision of the war department we might go at length and point with pride to the condition which has exempted Vermont from participation in the last quota of the first draft under the selective service law of the United States. However, we simply desire to refer to the situation, believing that the facts as therein revealed will be thoroughly effective in refuting whatever false assertions have been made about Vermont's participation in the present war. Of the group of states coming within the scope of the Camp Levens induction—all New England and northern New York—Vermont stands at the head in proportion of voluntary presentation for service at this time, so far ahead that not a single man will be drafted for the final 15 per cent of the first draft. New York and Massachusetts, in which commonwealths some newspapers have been most busy attacking Vermont's patriotism, stand the worst of the group, being called upon to supply several thousand men each, while Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine and New Hampshire come along in that order, the last-named state being well-nigh exempt from participation because of its voluntary inductions into the service. We trust that the above fact, as set forth by the Associated Press, will come to the attention of the editorialists who have, seemingly, taken delight in picturing Vermont's spirit of patriotism as of the vague variety, so vague as to be almost indistinguishable. Under the information just revealed Vermont must be given her due.

CURRENT COMMENT

Time for "Backing and Filling" to Stop.

It is simply another illustration of the confused conditions of things in the war department and the preparedness movements that there is such "backing and filling" with regard to the Vermonters who have been urged to enlist so that they can "serve with Vermont men, under Vermont officers, in a Vermont regiment," which it is hoped will fill to full war strength, 3600, at the cantonment, Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C., that the announcement is made one day that the young men may join such regiment and the next day the announcement is made that they cannot.

This is not to say that it is not the duty, yes, the privilege of capable young men of draft age, to volunteer with whomsoever they can serve, to help fight the battle for world democracy. This isn't a pleasure picnic. It is simply to say that the government ought to be square with the men. One department ought not to promise them one thing one day, only to have another department the next day countermand the order.

We do not conceive of it as carping criticism to insist that now, a year after this country went actively into the war, at least the semblance of order should be brought out of chaos.

It is suspected that one of the principal troubles is that there are so many southern Democrats in office, waiting for office and promised office that they are falling all over each other at Washington and all over the country, and that they are in each other's way. It is time for the war department of the administration to "get down to brass tacks."—Rutland News.

One More Federal Control.

The president's proclamation establishing one more federal control, over exports and imports this time, is not unexpected. The usual preparation of the public mind for the shock has been in progress for several days. No doubt business will accept the situation philosophically, as it has so much else, on the ground of war necessity, but it would be too much to hope that many hearts will not sink a little at the prospect of the chilling hand of the government being laid upon the entire foreign commerce of the country. Experiences in coal, sugar, shipbuilding, freight movement, will naturally color the outlook to the average man.

Plainly this condition is felt at Washington, and every possible reassurance that can be put into words is being given. The war trade board has issued a plea in extenuation in which it says that the president's action "does not mean an embargo on exports or a prohibition of imports but places in the hands of the president the power to regulate." This will be read with hope by all concerned in foreign trade or production for it. The hope will be that the regulation will not be in the same category with needless Mondays.

As regards the necessity for the new control, the export phase will be more readily accepted, although, as Washington dispatches remark, it must involve serious curtailment of many industries. It is to be feared that it may also turn back the clock to no small extent in respect to our newly developing trade with South America and the far East. But the need for limitation of imports is certain to strike the man in the street as peculiar. What there is to gain by bringing home ships in ballast rather than with profitable cargoes is not readily understandable. Perhaps the war trade board will presently give out an explanation.—New York Evening Sun.

WEBSTERVILLE.

Special train service to and from East Barre Saturday night to accommodate voters attending caucus.

HARDWICK

To the women who have the right to vote in town meeting this coming March, provided they first take the oath, is given a warning that there will be a chance for them to take the oath at a meeting of the board of civil authority at the Memorial building on Friday, March 1, at 2 o'clock, and from that time on and in the evening also. At the first meeting on Jan. 19 last, only 25 women appeared.

Albert Renault and Lydia Brochu, both of this place, were married at St. Norbert's church, Feb. 11, by Rev. J. M. Kennedy.

The village auditors are busy this week checking up the accounts of village officers. The annual village meeting comes the week after town meeting, or March 12.

Weather permitting, a big snowshoe hike is planned for Washington's birthday, with the boy scouts acting as pathfinders and having charge of the Hooverized lunch in camp.

Mrs. Thomas Thompson and son, Thomas Thompson, jr., left Thursday night for Bristol, Conn., where Mr. Thompson has been employed for some time.

People's academy won a close and exciting game of basketball from the Hardwick academy boys at the local gym last Wednesday evening by a score of 27 to 24. The social dance by the scout orchestra following the game was well attended and a good time enjoyed.

The funeral of Wilbur Waterman, who died at his home at Hardwick Center last Tuesday of tuberculosis, was held Friday afternoon, with interment in the Center cemetery.

Arrangements have been completed by the manager of the boy scout basketball team of this place for a game the evening of Washington's birthday, Friday, the 22d, with the North Montpelier woolen mill team. This team is a new one in these parts, but has a reputation of being a good team, and it is expected that a large number of adherents of the popular scout team will be on hand not only to give the visiting team a cordial welcome, but to encourage the locals in winning another game.

The warning for the annual town meeting has been issued and posted and contains many interesting articles and some that should have the serious consideration of every voter. The present crisis the country is in should make every voter have or feel it a special duty to attend this meeting and take part in the discussion of the important things to come before the meeting.

John Regan, baker at Jordan's bakery, met with a painful accident at the home of Peter Catto on Cherry street last Saturday night. He opened a door which he supposed opened to go upstairs, but which opened, instead, into the cellar, and, as he was talking with someone as he opened the door, the first thing he knew he was falling into the cellar. He received a badly wrenched arm, but outside of being somewhat bruised and shaken up he was not otherwise injured.

Leigh O. Paquette was home from his work in the bank at Swanton over Sunday, a guest of his father, O. J. Paquette.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Kimball were business visitors in St. Johnsbury last Friday.

R. S. Hooper has been home from his duties in St. Johnsbury for a few days the past week.

George Lyons was home from Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass., the latter part of last week and over Sunday on a short furlough. He reports that the life is fine there and everything is all right.

Letters to the Editor

The Utilization of Man Power.

Editor, Barre Times: Owing to America's imperative call for a master of battle aloft her stars and stripes along the battle lines of the great world war, the utilization of her man power here at home becomes more urgent as the weeks go by.

The war with all its possibilities is upon us and demands the most concerted activity of us all. No other interest that could possibly engage our thoughts and energies is comparable with it at this time. Its claims are paramount to all other claims, and challenge the patriotism of every citizen at home, as well as that of our soldiers on the battlefield.

The proper utilization of our man power at home has become a matter of utmost necessity, and civic enterprises that can await the dawn of peace should be side-tracked," so to speak, that the mighty engines of war may have the right of way. Munition plants, shipyards, factories engaged in making soldiers' uniforms, and especially the farms of America, are loudly calling for all the man power of the nation not engaged in military service.

The war is also making heavy demands upon us for money so necessary for its successful prosecution that cities should not levy and towns should not vote taxes upon the people for street and highway improvements beyond what is necessary to make them reasonably passable until the welcome dove of peace shall have spread her wings over the long-prayed-for brotherhood of nations.

L. F. Portney.
 Plainfield, Vt., Feb. 18, 1918.

HALF QUOTA FILLED.

Vermont Needs About 600 More Shipyard Volunteers.

R. W. Simonds, who has charge of the shipbuilding volunteers' campaign in Vermont, has received from the shipping board a sample of the buttons which are to be presented to each of the persons who volunteer for the U. S. shipyards. The button is of bronze, egg shape, across the center of which is a raised ship on the hull of which are the initials "U. S." while over the ship and near the top of the button appears the word "Shipyard" and at the bottom the word "Volunteer." Making a very fitting button to show that the wearer is ready to contribute his bit toward the victorious outcome of the war.

The report which comes to Mr. Simonds, although delayed because some 43 agents have been appointed directly from the war department, show that about one-half of Vermont's quota has been obtained; that is to say, some 600 persons have volunteered to go into the service when the shipyards are ready to receive this large increase. A message received from the national director speaks flatteringly of the accomplishments of the state directors. However, the campaign will be continued in Vermont until the quota is secured. Each man will receive in due time a button like that described above.

The government is preparing for the men by the construction of recreation places and making other arrangements so that the workers can secure amusement which will agree with their work. Another week will see the state well towards the goal of 1300 volunteers for shipbuilding.

The United States Food Administration Says:
 Corn is king in America to-day. One-third of all our land under cultivation is in corn. EAT MORE CORN.

Small Men

Here's your chance. We've got quite a few small size Suits, 34, 35 and 36, and have priced them about one-half what they're worth to-day—but we're going to sell every Suit and Overcoat in our store. Look these over. A few may be seen in our window.

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WEST BERLIN

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ayers from Montpelier were guests of Miss M. L. Libbey Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Guilmette, who have been stopping in Northfield of late, have returned to their home in this place.

The ladies of the Red Cross will meet with Miss Ella M. Ayers next Friday afternoon to sew.

Miss Addie E. Kimball is now stopping with her brother, C. D. Kimball, in Montpelier.

Mrs. Harold Hewitt from Montpelier visited Miss A. R. Emerson and Mrs. C. A. Patterson last week.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Snow from Sharon visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Robinson, Sunday.

A speaking contest and exhibit of school work will be held in the parish hall Thursday evening, Feb. 21, the following schools participating: Valley school, Cox' brook, West Berlin grammar and primary schools. Hon. Frank G. Howland of Barre, county director, will give a short talk on the thrift stamp and war savings work. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The names of eight women in this place were added to the checklist last Saturday, when the board of civil authority met.

580 GERMAN WAR MEDALS.

To Commemorate Various Alleged Victories in the War.

London, Feb. 19.—Germany has produced 580 different war medals to commemorate various alleged victories during the war. Copies of about half of them have been obtained by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and are now on exhibition there.

Before April, 1916, the German government had issued more than a hundred popular-priced "victory medals" of various kinds. These were struck off in light silver and sold to the public for a small sum, bearing inscriptions recording such exploits as Zeppelin attacks on London, the bombardment of British coast towns and battles on the western front. Many of the medals bear portraits of popular heroes of a day or two.

Some of the medals are intended as cartoons. Such is a medal depicting England as a skeleton torpedoing the Dutch steamer Tubantia—although the Dutch government proved that the torpedo was of German manufacture.

JINGLES AND JESTS

Never Abused Papa.

The little tot was "lost." At the station the officer tried all sorts of questions to ascertain who she was. Finally he said, "What name does your mother call father?"

"She doesn't call him any name," replied the child; "she likes him."—Boston Transcript.

Thanks.

Now is the winter Of our discontent Made glorious summer By two most charming Ladies one of whom Presented us with A can of jam And the other With a guineapig. We have eaten The can of jam— And the guineapig Would do well To watch his step.

—Morning Telegraph.

A Good Word for Fish.

Willie's essay: "We oughta eat more fish. The fish is a clean animal you will never see it romping in the dusty road or scratching in the dirt and it takes a bath every day whether it needs it or not."—Boston Transcript.

Alibi.

One broiling August day an aged "cul-lud gemman" who was pushing a barrow of bricks paused to dash the sweat from his dusky brow; then, shaking his fist at the sun, he apostrophized it thus: "Fo' the lawd's sake, war wuz yuh last Jancoary?"—Everybody's Magazine.

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